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EXAMINER

CHOJNACKI, MELLISSA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2164

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/015,566

Applicant(s)

HAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Mellissa M Chojnacki

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02-August-2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date Feb. 27, 2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 24-27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 25-27 are rejected because they disclose a "reset command" that has not been described in the specification of the application. Therefore, claims 25-27 contain new matter and are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,239), in view of Doi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,887,130).

As to claim 22, Fukuda teaches a server (See column 3, lines 46-47) comprising:

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a storage section for storing a plurality of first information pieces (See column 2, lines 11-12. It is inherent that “at least one “ signifies a “plurality of first information pieces”);

a corresponding information storage section for storing a plurality of second information pieces in one-to-one correspondence with the plurality of the first information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57); and

a prohibition section (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5), wherein when the outputted second information piece is returned from the terminal, on a basis of the returned second information pieces, the prohibition section prohibits the first information pieces corresponding to the second information piece of which the number of output times becomes a preset threshold value or more from being outputted to the terminal in later output after the output to the terminal wherein the number of output times becomes equal to the threshold value (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5, where “copied” is read on “number of output times” and “limit” is read on “threshold”); and

an initialization section for initializing the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece prohibited from being output to the terminal (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5).

Fukuda does not teach the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and

an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted.

Doi et al. teaches a information processing apparatus, information processing method, data recording medium, and information processing system (See Abstract), in which he teaches the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11) and; an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted (See Abstract; column1, lines 38-39).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, to include the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, by the teachings of Doi et al. because the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal

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together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted would enable the copyright holder (or the set threshold) of the data to impose limitations on the number of copyable times of the data (See Doi et al., column 15, lines 7-9).

4. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,239), in view of Ginter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,304).

As to claim 28, Fukuda teaches an information exchange system, comprising: a server (See abstract), which comprises:

at least one memory that stores first information pieces (See *), second information pieces that respectively indicate a number of times that the first information pieces have been output to a terminal (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5, where "copied" is read on "number of output times" and "limit" is read on "threshold"), and

a control circuit that outputs the batch information to the terminal and that receives selection information, wherein the control circuit outputs selected first information pieces to the terminal based on the selection information (See column 7, lines 53-62; column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5, where "copied" is read on "number of output times" and "limit" is read on "threshold").

Fukuda does not teach batch information that identifies all of the first information pieces stored in the at least one memory;

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Ginter et al. teaches systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection (See abstract), in which he teaches batch information that identifies all of the first information pieces stored in the at least one memory (See column 285, lines 1-9; column 289, lines 58-67; column 290, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include batch information that identifies all of the first information pieces stored in the at least one memory.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Ginter et al. because batch information that identifies all of the first information pieces stored in the at least one memory would help to ensure that information is accessed and/or otherwise used only in authorized ways, and maintains the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of such information and processes related to such use (See Ginter et al. column 1, lines 20-26).

5. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,239), in view of Doi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,887,130), in further view of Ginter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,304).

As to claim 1, Fukuda teaches a server (See column 3, lines 46-47) comprising:

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a storage section for storing a plurality of first information pieces (See column 2, lines 11-12. It is inherent that “at least one “ signifies a “plurality of first information pieces”);

a corresponding information storage section for storing a plurality of second information pieces in one-to-one correspondence with the plurality of the first information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

a program information section that stores program information pieces that indicates the first information pieces that are programmed to be transferred to the terminal (See column 7, lines 53-62);

a prohibition section (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5), wherein when the outputted second information piece is returned from the terminal, on a basis of the returned second information pieces, the prohibition section prohibits the first information pieces corresponding to the second information piece of which the number of output times becomes a preset threshold value or more from being outputted to the terminal in later output after the output to the terminal wherein the number of output times becomes equal to the threshold value (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5, where “copied” is read on “number of output times” and “limit” is read on “threshold”).

Fukuda does not teach the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal;

a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section; and

an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted.

Doi et al. teaches a information processing apparatus, information processing method, data recording medium, and information processing system (See Abstract), in which he teaches the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11) and; an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted (See Abstract; column1, lines 38-39).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, to include the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, by the teachings of Doi et al. because the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal

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together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted would enable the copyright holder (or the set threshold) of the data to impose limitations on the number of copyable times of the data (See Doi et al., column 15, lines 7-9).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

Ginter et al. teaches systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection (See abstract), in which he teaches a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section (See column 285, lines 1-9; column 289, lines 58-67; column 290, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Ginter et al. because a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section would help to ensure that

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information is accessed and/or otherwise used only in authorized ways, and maintains the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of such information and processes related to such use (See Ginter et al. column 1, lines 20-26).

As to claim 3, Fukuda as modified, teaches further comprising a initialization section for initializing the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece prohibited from being output to the terminal (See Fukuda, column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5).

As to claim 5, Fukuda as modified, teaches wherein the first information pieces are a plurality of pieces of music (See Fukuda, column 23, lines 66-67).

As to claim 11, Fukuda teaches an information record medium recording a sever program for causing a server computer contained in a server to function as (See column 1, lines 57-60):

a storage section for storing a plurality of first information pieces (See column 2, lines 11-12. It is inherent that “at least one “ signifies a “plurality of first information pieces”);

a corresponding information storage section for storing a plurality of second information pieces in one-to-one correspondence with the plurality of the first information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

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a program information section that stores program information pieces that indicates the first information pieces that are programmed to be transferred to the terminal (See column 7, lines 53-62); and

a prohibition section (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5), wherein when the outputted second information piece is returned from the terminal, on a basis of the returned second information pieces, the prohibition section prohibits the first information pieces corresponding to the second information piece of which the number of output times becomes a preset threshold value or more from being outputted to the terminal in later output after the output to the terminal wherein the number of output times becomes equal to the threshold value (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5, where "copied" is read on "number of output times" and "limit" is read on "threshold").

Fukuda does not teach a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section; the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted.

Doi et al. teaches a information processing apparatus, information processing method, data recording medium, and information processing system (See Abstract), in which he teaches the second information pieces indicating

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number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11) and;

and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted (See Abstract; column1, lines 38-39).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, to include the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, by the teachings of Doi et al. because the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted would enable the copyright holder (or the set threshold) of the data to impose limitations on the number of copyable times of the data (See Doi et al., column 15, lines 7-9).

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Fukuda as modified, still does not teach a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

Ginter et al. teaches systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection (See abstract), in which he teaches a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section (See column 285, lines 1-9; column 289, lines 58-67; column 290, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Ginter et al. because a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section would help to ensure that information is accessed and/or otherwise used only in authorized ways, and maintains the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of such information and processes related to such use (See Ginter et al. column 1, lines 20-26).

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6. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,239), in view of Doi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,887,130) as applied to claims 1, 3, 5 and 11 above, and further in view of Kawashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,072).

As to claim 23, Fukuda teaches a server (See column 3, lines 46-47) comprising:

a storage section for storing a plurality of first information pieces (See column 2, lines 11-12. It is inherent that “at least one “ signifies a “plurality of first information pieces”);

a corresponding information storage section for storing a plurality of second information pieces in one-to-one correspondence with the plurality of the first information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

a prohibition section for prohibiting the first information pieces corresponding to the second information piece of which the number of output times becomes a preset threshold value or more from being outputted to the terminal in later output after the output to the terminal wherein the number of output times becomes equal to the threshold value (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5, where “copied” is read on “number of output times” and “limit” is read on “threshold”); and

an initialization section for initializing the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece prohibited from being output to the terminal (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5).

Fukuda does not teach the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal; and an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal.

Doi et al. teaches a information processing apparatus, information processing method, data recording medium, and information processing system (See Abstract), in which he teaches the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11); and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, to include the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, by the teachings of Doi et al. because the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output

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section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal would enable the copyright holder (or the set threshold) of the data to impose limitations on the number of copyable times of the data (See Doi et al., column 15, lines 7-9).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal.

Kawashima et al. teaches a database system and method for accessing the same, (See Abstract), in which he teaches an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal (See column 5, lines 57-65; column 16, lines 12-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Kawashima et al. because an increment section for incrementing the

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number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal would assign the highest priority level, a cumulative value of the number of requests for the information source requested by the user therefore showing how many times each information piece has been accessed by the user (See Kawashima et al., column 5, lines 43-65).

7. Claims 2, 4, 6-10, 12-21 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,239), in view of Doi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,887,130) as applied to claims 1, 3, 5 and 11 above, and in further view of Ginter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,304), further in view of Kawashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,072).

As to claim 2, Fukuda teaches a server (See column 3, lines 46-47) comprising:

a storage section for storing a plurality of first information pieces (See column 2, lines 11-12. It is inherent that "at least one " signifies a "plurality of first information pieces");

a corresponding information storage section for storing a plurality of second information pieces in one-to-one correspondence with the plurality of the first information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

a program information section that stores program information pieces that indicates the first information pieces that are programmed to be transferred to the terminal (See column 7, lines 53-62);

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a prohibition section for prohibiting the first information pieces corresponding to the second information piece of which the number of output times becomes a preset threshold value from being outputted to the terminal in later output after the output to the terminal wherein the number of output times becomes equal to the threshold value (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5, where “copied” is read on “number of output times” and “limit” is read on “threshold”).

Fukuda does not teach the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section; an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal; and an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal.

Doi et al. teaches a information processing apparatus, information processing method, data recording medium, and information processing system (See Abstract), in which he teaches the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11); and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, to include the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, by the teachings of Doi et al. because the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal would enable the copyright holder (or the set threshold) of the data to impose limitations on the number of copyable times of the data (See Doi et al., column 15, lines 7-9).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

Ginter et al. teaches systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection (See abstract), in which he teaches a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section (See column 285, lines 1-9; column 289, lines 58-67; column 290, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Ginter et al. because a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section would help to ensure that information is accessed and/or otherwise used only in authorized ways, and maintains the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of such information and processes related to such use (See Ginter et al. column 1, lines 20-26).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal.

Kawashima et al. teaches a database system and method for accessing the same, (See Abstract), in which he teaches an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal (See column 5, lines 57-65; column 16, lines 12-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Kawashima et al. because an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal would assign the highest priority level, a cumulative value of the number of requests for the information source requested by the user therefore showing how many times each information piece has been accessed by the user (See Kawashima et al., column 5, lines 43-65).

As to claim 4, Fukuda as modified, teaches further comprising a initialization section for initializing the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece prohibited from being output to the terminal (See Fukuda, column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5; also see Kawashima et al., column 16, lines 12-17, where “fetches” is read on initializing”. And Column 18, lines 50-65).

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As to claim 6, Fukuda as modified, teaches wherein the first information pieces are a plurality of pieces of music (See Fukuda, column 23, lines 66-67).

As to claim 7, Fukuda teaches a terminal (See column 23, line 34) comprising:

a storage section for storing a plurality of first information pieces (See column 2, lines 11-12. It is inherent that “at least one “ signifies a “plurality of first information pieces”);

an acquisition section for acquiring a plurality of second information pieces in one-to-one correspondence with the plurality of the first information pieces together with the first information pieces corresponding to the second information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

a program information section that stores program information pieces that indicates the first information pieces that are programmed to be transferred to the terminal (See column 7, lines 53-62); and

a utilization section for utilizing the acquired first information pieces (See Column 2, lines 13-16, where “read out” is read upon “utilizing”).

Fukuda does not teach the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal.

Doi et al. teaches a information processing apparatus, information processing method, data recording medium, and information processing system (See Abstract), in which he teaches the second information pieces indicating

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number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, to include the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, by the teachings of Doi et al. because the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal would enable the copyright holder (or the set threshold) of the data to impose limitations on the number of copyable times of the data (See Doi et al., column 15, lines 7-9).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces, the batch information, and the program information pieces to the server.

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

Ginter et al. teaches systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection (See abstract), in which he teaches a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first

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information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section (See column 285, lines 1-9; column 289, lines 58-67; column 290, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Ginter et al. because a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section would help to ensure that information is accessed and/or otherwise used only in authorized ways, and maintains the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of such information and processes related to such use (See Ginter et al. column 1, lines 20-26).

Kawashima et al. teaches a database system and method for accessing the same, (See Abstract), in which he teaches an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces (See column 5, lines 57-65; column 16, lines 12-20); and

a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces, the batch information, and the program information pieces to the server (See

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column 16, lines 12-20; also see Doi et al., column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces, the batch information, and the program information pieces to the server.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Kawashima et al. because an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces, the batch information, and the program information pieces to the server would assign the highest priority level, a cumulative value of the number of requests for the information source requested by the user therefore showing how many times each information piece has been accessed by the user (See Kawashima et al., column 5, lines 43-65).

As to claim 8, Fukuda as modified, teaches wherein them plurality of first information pieces are a plurality of pieces of music (See Fukuda, column 23, lines 66-67).

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As to claim 9, Fukuda teaches an information processing system (See column 25, line 9) comprising:

a server (See column 3, lines 46-47); and

a terminal connected to the server via a network (See column 4, lines 51-60),

wherein the server comprises:

a first storage section for storing a plurality of first information pieces (See column 2, lines 11-12. It is inherent that "at least one " signifies a "plurality of first information pieces");

a corresponding information storage section for storing a plurality of second information pieces in one-to-one correspondence with the plurality of the first information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

a program information section that stores program information pieces that indicates the first information pieces that are programmed to be transferred to the terminal (See column 7, lines 53-62);

a prohibition section (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5), the terminal (See column 23, line 34) comprises:

a second storage section for storing the plurality of first information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

an acquisition section for acquiring the plurality of second information pieces together with the first information pieces corresponding to the second information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

a utilization section for utilizing the acquired first information pieces (See Column 2, lines 13-16, where "read out" is read upon "utilizing"); and

wherein when the outputted second information piece is returned from the terminal, on a basis of the returned second information pieces, the prohibition section of the server prohibits the first information pieces corresponding to the second information piece of which the number of output times becomes a preset threshold value or more from being outputted to the terminal in later output after the output to the terminal wherein the number of output times becomes equal to the threshold value (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5, where “copied” is read on “number of output times” and “limit” is read on “threshold”).

Fukuda does not teach, the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted; and an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server.

Doi et al. teaches a information processing apparatus, information processing method, data recording medium, and information processing system (See Abstract), in which he teaches the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11); and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal

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together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted (See Abstract; column1, lines 38-39).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, to include the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, by the teachings of Doi et al. because the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal together with the second information pieces corresponding to the first information pieces to be outputted would enable the copyright holder (or the set threshold) of the data to impose limitations on the number of copyable times of the data (See Doi et al., column 15, lines 7-9).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

Ginter et al. teaches systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection (See abstract), in which he teaches

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a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section (See column 285, lines 1-9; column 289, lines 58-67; column 290, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Ginter et al. because a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section would help to ensure that information is accessed and/or otherwise used only in authorized ways, and maintains the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of such information and processes related to such use (See Ginter et al. column 1, lines 20-26).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server.

Kawashima et al. teaches a database system and method for accessing the same, (See Abstract), in which he teaches an increment section for

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incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces (See column 5, lines 57-65; column 16, lines 12-20); and

a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server (See column 16, lines 12-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Kawashima et al. because an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server would assign the highest priority level, a cumulative value of the number of requests for the information source requested by the user therefore showing how many times each information piece has been accessed by the user (See Kawashima et al., column 5, lines 43-65).

As to claim 10, Fukuda teaches an information processing system (See column 25, line 9) comprising:

a server (See column 3, lines 46-47); and

a terminal connected to the server via a network (See column 4, lines 51-60),

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wherein the server comprises:

a first storage section for storing a plurality of first information pieces (See column 2, lines 11-12. It is inherent that "at least one " signifies a "plurality of first information pieces");

a corresponding information storage section for storing a plurality of second information pieces in one-to-one correspondence with the plurality of the first information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

a program information section that stores program information pieces that indicates the first information pieces that are programmed to be transferred to the terminal (See column 7, lines 53-62); and

a prohibition section (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5), for prohibiting the first information pieces corresponding to the second information piece of which the number of output times becomes a preset threshold value or more from being outputted to the terminal in later output after the output to the terminal wherein the number of output times becomes equal to the threshold value (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5, where "copied" is read on "number of output times" and "limit" is read on "threshold") and

the terminal (See column 23, line 34) comprises:

a second storage section for storing the plurality of first information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

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an acquisition section for acquiring the plurality of second information pieces together with the first information pieces corresponding to the second information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

a utilization section for utilizing the acquired first information pieces (See Column 2, lines 13-16, where “read out” is read upon “utilizing”).

Fukuda does not teach the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal; an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal; an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server.

Doi et al. teaches a information processing apparatus, information processing method, data recording medium, and information processing system (See Abstract), in which he the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11); and

an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal (See Abstract; column1, lines 38-39).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, to include

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the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, by the teachings of Doi et al. because the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal would enable the copyright holder (or the set threshold) of the data to impose limitations on the number of copyable times of the data (See Doi et al., column 15, lines 7-9).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

Ginter et al. teaches systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection (See abstract), in which he teaches a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section (See column 285, lines 1-9; column 289, lines 58-67; column 290, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include a batch information section that stores batch information that

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identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Ginter et al. because a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section would help to ensure that information is accessed and/or otherwise used only in authorized ways, and maintains the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of such information and processes related to such use (See Ginter et al. column 1, lines 20-26).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal; and an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server.

Kawashima et al. teaches a database system and method for accessing the same, (See Abstract), in which he teaches an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal (See column 5, lines 57-65; column 16, lines 12-20);

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an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces(See column 16, lines 12-20); and

a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server (See column 16, lines 12-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal; an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Kawashima et al. because an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal; an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server would assign the highest priority level, a cumulative value of the number

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of requests for the information source requested by the user therefore showing how many times each information piece has been accessed by the user (See Kawashima et al., column 5, lines 43-65).

As to claim 12, Fukuda teaches an information record medium recording a sever program for causing a server computer contained in a server to function as (See column 1, lines 57-60):

a storage section for storing a plurality of first information pieces (See column 2, lines 11-12. It is inherent that "at least one " signifies a "plurality of first information pieces");

a corresponding information storage section for storing a plurality of second information pieces in one-to-one correspondence with the plurality of the first information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

a program information section that stores program information pieces that indicates the first information pieces that are programmed to be transferred to the terminal (See column 7, lines 53-62);

a prohibition section (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5), for prohibiting the first information pieces corresponding to the second information piece of which the number of output times becomes a preset threshold value or more from being outputted to the terminal in later output after the output to the terminal wherein the number of output times becomes equal to the threshold value (See column 22, lines 66-67; column 23, lines 1-5, where "copied" is read on "number of output times" and "limit" is read on "threshold").

Fukuda does not teach the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal; and an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal.

Doi et al. teaches a information processing apparatus, information processing method, data recording medium, and information processing system (See Abstract), in which he teaches, the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11); and

an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal (See Abstract; column1, lines 38-39).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, to include the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, by the teachings of Doi et al. because the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; and an output

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section for outputting the first information pieces to be outputted to a terminal would enable the copyright holder (or the set threshold) of the data to impose limitations on the number of copyable times of the data (See Doi et al., column 15, lines 7-9).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

Ginter et al. teaches systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection (See abstract), in which he teaches a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section (See column 285, lines 1-9; column 289, lines 58-67; column 290, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Ginter et al. because a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section would help to ensure that

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information is accessed and/or otherwise used only in authorized ways, and maintains the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of such information and processes related to such use (See Ginter et al. column 1, lines 20-26).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal.

Kawashima et al. teaches a database system and method for accessing the same, (See Abstract), in which he teaches an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal (See column 5, lines 57-65; column 16, lines 12-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Kawashima et al. because an increment section for incrementing the number of output times of the second information piece corresponding to the first

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information piece outputted to the terminal each time when the first information piece is outputted to the terminal would assign the highest priority level, a cumulative value of the number of requests for the information source requested by the user therefore showing how many times each information piece has been accessed by the user (See Kawashima et al., column 5, lines 43-65).

As to claim 13, Fukuda teaches an information record medium recording a terminal program for causing a terminal computer contained in a terminal to function as (See column 1, lines 57-60):

a storage section for storing a plurality of first information pieces (See column 2, lines 11-12. It is inherent that “at least one “ signifies a “plurality of first information pieces”);

an acquisition section for acquiring a plurality of second information pieces in one-to-one correspondence with the plurality of the first information pieces together with the first information pieces corresponding to the second information pieces (See column 24, lines 51-57);

a program information section that stores program information pieces that indicates the first information pieces that are programmed to be transferred to the terminal (See column 7, lines 53-62); and

a utilization section for utilizing the acquired first information pieces (See Column 2, lines 13-16, where “read out” is read upon “utilizing”).

Fukuda does not teach the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal; an

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increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server.

Doi et al. teaches a information processing apparatus, information processing method, data recording medium, and information processing system (See Abstract), in which he teaches the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal (See column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, to include the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda, by the teachings of Doi et al. because the second information pieces indicating number of output times the first information pieces has been outputted to a terminal would enable the copyright holder (or the set threshold) of the data to impose limitations on the number of copyable times of the data (See Doi et al., column 15, lines 7-9).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

Ginter et al. teaches systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection (See abstract), in which he teaches

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a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section (See column 285, lines 1-9; column 289, lines 58-67; column 290, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Ginter et al. because a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes for the first information pieces stored in the storage section would help to ensure that information is accessed and/or otherwise used only in authorized ways, and maintains the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of such information and processes related to such use (See Ginter et al. column 1, lines 20-26).

Fukuda as modified, still does not teach an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server.

Kawashima et al. teaches a database system and method for accessing the same, (See Abstract), in which he teaches an increment section for

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incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces (See column 5, lines 57-65; column 16, lines 12-20); and

a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server (See column 16, lines 12-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, to include an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fukuda as modified, by the teachings of Kawashima et al. because an increment section for incrementing the second information pieces corresponding to the acquired first information pieces; and a return section for returning the incremented second information pieces to the server would assign the highest priority level, a cumulative value of the number of requests for the information source requested by the user therefore showing how many times each information piece has been accessed by the user (See Kawashima et al., column 5, lines 43-65).

As to claims 14, 16, 18 and 20 Fukuda as modified, teaches wherein the program information pieces are received from the terminal (See Fukuda, column 9, lines 7-13, lines 66-67; column 10, lines 1-15).

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As to claims 15, 17, 19, 21 and 29 Fukuda as modified, teaches wherein the batch information is output to the terminal,

wherein a user of the terminal identifies the first information pieces contained in the storage section and selects the first information pieces to be transferred from the server to the terminal based on the batch information (See Ginter et al., column 285, lines 1-9; column 289, lines 58-67; column 290, lines 1-2), and

wherein the terminal outputs the program information pieces to the server based on the selected first information pieces (See Doi et al., column 14, lines 53-67; column 15, lines 1-11).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments in Response to the Office Action mailed February 17, 2004, for the application filed 17-December-2001, with respect to objection to the specification and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph have been fully considered and are persuasive.

9. Applicant's arguments filed on August 2, 2004, for the application filed 17-December-2001, with respect to the rejected claims in view of the cited references have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

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Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mellissa M. Chojnacki whose telephone number is (571) 272-4076. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on (571) 272-4083. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mmc
January 7, 2005


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER